

Patrick Gould: ... [indiscernible] [00:00:00] I love this. She's a kindergarten teacher. [overlapping conversation] [00:00:02] [indiscernible] [00:00:02]

Interviewer: So, it's April 30th, and we're with Patrick Gould in Naples. And I want to start with a little bit about your fishing portfolio and how long you've been in Naples, and the fishing industry and how your portfolio has changed overtime and just a little background.

Patrick Gould: I've been backwater fishing guide for 25 years. I started in 94, and full time the entire time of those 25 years, except for one year, due to part time with another job. But basically, that's kind of it. I mean what else do you want to know.

Interviewer: Was that job in the fishing industry at all?

Patrick Gould: As far as besides...

Interviewer: The other job that you did was that...

Patrick Gould: I'm sorry, no that was pharmaceutical drugs. You can go ahead.

Interviewer: [indiscernible] [00:01:04] and you're chartering five days a week?

Patrick Gould: Every day, when I can. I do about 250 a year. Sometimes a little less, sometimes a little more. I would say that I'm a backwater fisherman, but I fish along the beach and up to five or six miles near shore [indiscernible] [00:01:29] any time I get a chance.

Interviewer: What we're trying to get out of these interviews is to look at red tide historically overtime. Since '94, since whenever, again, you really started getting that experience on the water in this area. What's the first red tide you remember? And I want to talk about that specific one, and as much you tell us what you can before we move on and talk about ones later on and then...

Patrick Gould: So, kind of the first one?

Interviewer: The first one, and let's focus on that one, and next couple of ones, and then, we'll get to the 2018 and the last year. [00:02:05]

Patrick Gould: In 1994 I started guiding in this area, so the Naples area mostly, some of the Ten Thousand Islands. I kind of remember a red tide that happened, and it was kind of, like everybody else was there knew more about it than I did. And they were worried about the winds blowing, and how far was we were going to get in the back water, and it was in and out, we avoided it, "The red tides [indiscernible] [00:02:38] so, we fished south of it, I remember. In fact, that's one of the reasons I started to fish more out of the Ten Thousand Islands at that time, come to think of it, and if it was in and if it was out. I remember seeing some fish dead. I think the first ones was mullet and catfish, because I remember people saying. "Oh, good the catfish," but it was spotty, the red tide. I know it was offshore and it didn't blow in too far where it stayed a long period of time, because I kind of remember like, "Oh, it wasn't that big of a deal."

Interviewer: So, this was in '94?

Patrick Gould: No, I think '95, '96. And I could remember. Because I could remember I was doing and offshore I started to use someone's offshore boat. Actually, I did a little offshore fishing. I forgot to tell you that for a while, one to two days a week.

Interviewer: From which years?

Patrick Gould: '95 to probably '99.

Interviewer: And that was charter reds?

Patrick Gould: Oh, yes.

Interviewer: The '95, '96 red tide that you remember. Where was it basically? You said it went like from Gordon's Pass.

Patrick Gould: Gordon's Pass and down to Marco. [00:04:03] I don't know how far it went north because I didn't care at the time. I just cared about catching my fish for my people, at that time, it didn't seem like an issue. And so many people said, "It happens every three or four years, it's a natural phenomenon, it just comes and goes out and that's it. I remember that's what I thought about it at that time.

Interviewer: How did it impact your fishing?

Patrick Gould: Having to change where I fished and in areas of the red tide where there was no fish biting, I mean you guys know all that, fish if they feel it coming. And if they move the bait fish die. All red tides are different. I don't want to jump ahead, but every one of them seems to have different characteristics, like it's a different strain or some tides to the [indiscernible] [00:05:05], catfish [indiscernible] [00:05:07], sometimes just the catfish, sometimes everything. You guys know all about that, right?

Interviewer: Yeah, so we've been interviewing. I think this is our 35 interview, but I'm really interested especially when you talk about differences in between them, but let's stay focused on the '95, '96 you said.

Patrick Gould: It's so hard to do.

Interviewer: Because it was so long ago.

Patrick Gould: I didn't care then.

Interviewer: And you didn't care.

Patrick Gould: I don't mean that...

Interviewer: Because you could fish through it.

Patrick Gould: The way that people talked about it back then and it was, "Yeah, we've had them, it's very four, or five or whatever many years, and if it just happens, something happens. At that point understand pollution and any other reason why it happened.

Interviewer: Was there a health impact back then? Like the cough.

Patrick Gould: Because that's how we would know, because sometimes see red tide, no discoloration in the water, nothing. [00:06:06] Other than a scratchy throat. And sometimes I would see my clients do it, and I was asking them, "Hey, did you feel something in your throat tickling? And they're like, 'Yeah.'" And that's we kind of know, "Oh, it's red tide here." And obviously, if you're in areas that are boats, that's what happens, if you're on the beach with boats. Because what's the word... which we call atomize, when it gets in the air. So, it gets into the air from around other boats, that's how another reason you know that red tides are out. So, going back to that first red tide. I don't know anything else. I couldn't tell you any other questions about it.

Interviewer: Like if you were to draw an area on this map that you thought, it was like approximately in, would you feel like you say Gordon's Pass here...

Patrick Gould: I remember coming into Gordon's Pass, and I remember going to Marco and it was still there, Marco Pass and that's why I started going the first time I remember going out of [indiscernible] [00:07:05], and because there was a red tide. And you talk to different people, "Oh, there's not red tide down there, which is common. I'm sure you've heard that.

Interviewer: Let's [indiscernible] [00:07:16], so starting from Gordon's Pass here and then, down to wherever it stopped and if you could estimate how far out...

Patrick Gould: Is that Gordon's Pass there?

Interviewer: Yes.

Patrick Gould: I can't even see. So, you want me to draw like, a line?

Interviewer: Yeah, sure.

Patrick Gould: And then, is that Marco Pass?

Interviewer: Yes, and then, like shade wherever.

Patrick Gould: Okay, this is Marco Pass. And I went out here and it seemed to come down here, we got fish here I think it was '95 season, a lot more down here because I'd learned the area because of that, because of the red tide.

Interviewer: Because it pushed you further south?

Patrick Gould: Yeah.

Interviewer: Do you remember like how far out it went? Like how far out were you going, when you see it?

Patrick Gould: Right then, here I don't go off, out of Wiggins I went off. And I'm trying to remember one day a week. [00:08:10] I can't remember about that, but I would go offshore out of Wiggins at here, once a week and backwater the rest of the time, and here. Where is Gordon? Here's Gordon, between there, there, here and then, 951 boat ramp, which I think is here.

Interviewer: From Gordon Pass, and then, red tide from '96 it would stop about here?

Patrick Gould: When I would fish...

Interviewer: When you would fish.

Patrick Gould: When I would come out of there, there was still red tide. When we do a half-pay trip, we'll go fish down here and ride it back or this is a loop on a half-day, from here to here. 90% of all guides...

Interviewer: So this full area.

Patrick Gould: So when we're talking that's what we would be mostly aware of. From people to leave out of Bayview Park or here, and they don't go percent of the other time to go further either way.

Interviewer: So, this right here, this is your loop.

Patrick Gould: That's why probably I wouldn't know.

Interviewer: But I'm just going to draw the sun right here, and that's where you saw it and then, you were able to fish then.

Patrick Gould: Yes.

Interviewer: And then, after this, do you remember was there like, a recovery period? Was there time that it needed? Or, once it ended could you go back and fish in this area right away?

Patrick Gould: Back then you could, it was red tide, it's kind of gone, not long at all. I couldn't tell you other than you think. If you had a lot of west wind it would push it back, push it back. The further it pushed it back to west winds the longer it would take to this abate. If you didn't have a lot of west winds [00:10:08] it was very quick. If you have more west winds it took longer.

Interviewer: I guess by then you heard from other guys that there is red tide in their area, and that's how you knew, but in your experience are there any indicators or clues that you know there going to be a red tide coming in or anything you can do to prepare for it in any way?

Patrick Gould: Well, a lot of times, we'll be watching TV and they'll be like, "There's red tide in these areas, and on the maps." You guys do that, the little circles? I know when I'm with any of my friends or the guys, "We didn't notice any red tide there," but what we know is say, some of us are bait fishermen, "We'll go out and catch our bait... and this is really technical for us so, "You catch the bait and it looks great. And if you can really help us with this and figure this out, we'll love you forever," no, so then, you're pull in live well, you close your live well and you look in it and it's dead. You ever heard that story yet?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

Patrick Gould: You work your butt off, so. Why is it alive down low, and as soon as you put it up in your live well, is a red tide at a higher... so it's sucking it in from the top, put in your live well, and it's happy as hell on the bottom. And a lot of times there's no fish biting them down

there which is another mystery. We're doing all these things. We're taking the water here, put aerator in our live well. Do you want to hear this stuff?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Patrick Gould: [laughter], and catching the bait, putting it in and recirculate a live well we've gotten some place else. [00:12:00] People are racing in, from wherever they get it to come back in when it's off the beach. This past year was a nightmare. I know some people that weren't even working, they got out of business and it's just things like that made it so problematic to even do what we do, but you have to, and so you have to; you get it done. You figure out a way to keep your bait alive. I know I went off the track there.

Interviewer: No, no I'm actually, really interested in that, what do you do to keep your bait alive?

Patrick Gould: Recirculate if from water, from some place else. I already said that, get the water here and you put it in your live well. And then, there's a recirc well. You guys fishermen, fish anglers? No? You keep sending water and you keep it moving.

Interviewer: And instead of pulling water.

Patrick Gould: Instead of pulling water, so when you go out to the place to the, to the pier, let's say, you throw your bait, put it in your live well in water in here, then you only have a certain amount of time because you've got all of that bait in there the oxygen can't support as much bait as you want to keep. You can only keep a certain amount, and you've got to figure that out every day, it's hard.

Interviewer: What kinds of bait are you catching?

Patrick Gould: They're called pilchards [indiscernible] [00:13:19]. Sometimes you get the red herring, sometimes you get other sand bream. I would say pin fish; pilchards are what we try and get. And you'll hear people call it white bait. I don't know if you've heard... I think they're pilchards, they call them 'green backs' on the other coasts.

Interviewer: The pilchards, are those species, spend most of their time on the bottom.

Patrick Gould: I don't know. No, we catch them on the top, during the red tides. They're on the bottom and that's such a weird thing, why are they there? If the red tides are everywhere, why are they there? Now, that's probably this red tide that might not have been the last 10. I don't know, [indiscernible] [00:14:11]

Interviewer: I think we covered that one really good especially, since it was so long ago. What was the next one? What was the next red tide? If you think about it, it was '95 or '96, so what about the 2000s?

Patrick Gould: I have trouble remembering. What I do remember is that [indiscernible] [00:14:34] your clients, when you're fishing a red tide, which would happen every two, three years. Sometimes you would get three to four year when they're wouldn't be one, and your clients like, "How often does this happen?" and you say, "Well, it usually happens every couple of years, every two or three years. And it usually comes in, mess up the fishing. I try to be

honest and explain that it can happen. You can plan your trip, and next time it might be here,' they go, 'What time of year is it, we don't want to come again?'" I can imagine lots of hotels, a lot of people that people are like, once you're out in it... have you ever been out in a red tide and felt it, it's miserable. People don't want to bring their kids around, they want to go to the beach, because it's very comfortable and pleasant. I would tell them... and I think if my memory goes every three years maybe there would be one and they're always different, different fish die. Sometimes a couple of them, every fish die, everything in the water. I have clients that say, "Hey, you remember that time when we went and we looked down, and every living, tiny fish was dead, all of them littered the bottom."

Interviewer: You've experienced that before and I know you...

Patrick Gould: What, a complete kill?

Interviewer: Yeah, a complete kill. How many times has that happened?

Patrick Gould: Two to three times. [00:16:01]

Interviewer: Two to three times?

Patrick Gould: Yes, where everything was dead. I always hear and see that it happens worse and more often for the north. I think it happens way more [indiscernible] [00:16:20]. I was so happy to catch as many fish as I caught. Here we're talking about gloom and doom, and still today it was really nice. Sometimes where not good measurements, the guides aren't of how many fish are around, and how good it is, you know that, right, because we know the best spots. We know where to go at a certain tide. So, when you have 20 or 30 recreational fishermen, they may not be catching many. And so it's hard judge, in my opinion, how many fish around by fishing guides, does that make any sense.

Interviewer: What about like types of fish? What species are the most affected by red tide?

Patrick Gould: Catfish, mullet. Number one, number two. No, I would say mullet then catfish.

Interviewer: Are there any species that are not affected?

Patrick Gould: I catch snapper through red tides and sheep head. But they still are affected. When it gets really hard and thick, they will... snook seem like they usually get out quick, if they get caught up in it, and they die as well. I'm trying to figure out other times that... go ahead, I was going to start talking about trout. Which, I don't know what's going on with trout.

Interviewer: I mean if there's something, tell me about trout.

Patrick Gould: That it's just, to make it as nervous that there's not many trout, as many as we should be catching up here, down south they're doing fine. Up here it's like some days you catch them, other days we didn't. Red tide, how long was it around, a year this past time?

Interviewer: I think for a year.

Patrick Gould: It was like all we could do was is go to work and try your best, and try to be honest with your clients and tell them what's going on. Some people chose not to go. But I

would say... I'm sorry, go ahead. I was thinking about something else but go-ahead next question.

Interviewer: Does red tide have any impact on spawning, aggregations, what sort of species that you've noticed or the location of certain species, or does it affect them by size? Or, learning of their observations you have about... [00:18:43]

Patrick Gould: I would say I think it affects everything. Because it affects bait fish. It seems like the habitat. I was trying to think of how to answer that question. I think it affects everything a little bit. You've seen and I'm sure asked all of these guys, they're probably gloom and doom about how it used to be and how it is, but everyone's frustrated. I talked to a couple of guys, they're like, "No, I don't want to talk to them, "Why? They said." 'I just want to see if we can help and give them some information,' they go, 'They're not going to be able to do anything about it, what's the point.'" Because they feel like no matter what there's not going to be regulation, they're not going to help stop all the problems which is not one, it's pollution from Orlando, that's coming down. It's from everybody and everything. You guys know all of that. I think that's what... I surprised a couple of guys. Did any of those guys you talked to... what did they say, had you called, they're like, "No"?"

Interviewer: No, the guys that you sent me were really receptive.

Patrick Gould: They were? [00:20:08]

Interviewer: Yeah, we're talking to [indiscernible] [00:20:10] and Eric later. [indiscernible] [00:20:12] I've got to look at my list.

Patrick Gould: I think that would be Todd, [indiscernible] [00:20:16], Roane.

Interviewer: I talked to Roane; Roane was really interested. I know he's busy today though.

Patrick Gould: He's a good one to talk to.

Interviewer: Yeah, I know he wanted to help us out.

Patrick Gould: He has a way better memory than I do, he would be a good one. How many more interviews are you going to do when you're in Naples?

Interviewer: Well, we're on a day trip because our offices are in Miami. So, we're going talk to a couple of more people, a couple more charter companies. And then, we've been doing interviews all up and down the Gulf Coast, talking to people from...

Patrick Gould: You do the same thing most of the time?

Interviewer: Do we hear the same thing?

Patrick Gould: Yeah.

Interviewer: It varies a little bit. I mean they don't get red tide as much in the Everglades and stuff like that.

Patrick Gould: You mean down...

Interviewer: Further south.

Patrick Gould: Yeah, I know, from Goodland South, they don't get much.

Interviewer: You brought it up, so let's about as you said a lot of the other guys are like, "There's not going to be regulations. There's not going to be able to do anything." What are some of things that you think could be done? What could help this issue from a regulation, from a monitoring [indiscernible] [00:21:28] point?

Patrick Gould: Well, first they have to do what they can with the money they have. Because in the past 20 years politicians they run and say, 'We're going to do this,' they win and they kick the can down the road and they don't do it. They have to direct that water, that's the first thing. You get a lot of argument about that, some people think, "Oh, it's not," and it's that. I mean sure I have [indiscernible] [00:22:00], they have to do something about that first. Is that the whole problem, no, but they had to do something with that and treat that water somehow. It's like a sewage pipe from the entire State of Florida that runs down into Okeechobee. The people say, "Sugar cane," 15% of that is attributed of sugar cane back wash, back pumping is attributed to the sugar cane, not anymore than that. I don't know if you guys know that, but that's what someone told me, who's actually a lobbyist. You guys heard of the state senator from Pope County?

Interviewer: No.

Patrick Gould: I can't remember her name. I fished with her one time, it's right in the middle of red tide, and it was real interesting. It was her; it was the head lobbyist for the sugar cane and the director of the chamber of commerce, all in the same boat. How funny is that? And they were going back and forth, and very interesting conversation. And she saw all these dead fish, and she was like, "I had no idea it was like this." I go, "You had no idea what?" She goes, "I thought it was just the media showing a picture of the canal," she goes, "I can't fish here." I'm like, "I don't blame you," so we left. But that was a really interesting trip. But I told her, she goes, "What's your silver bullet, as far as what you would do?" I would say, "You've got to do something with that water, just do something with it, you've got to try." And then, after that you've got to start chipping away at golf courses, my yard. Everybody has to try, and that's what it's going to take. There's not one thing that we can vote on that's going to fix it. That's what I think, a lot more too, but anyway. [laughter]

Interviewer: So, in the pass with the red tides, would come and go, and you said were pretty much natural it happened every couple of years, every three years or so. [00:24:05]

Patrick Gould: That's what people told me back then, that was my understanding.

Interviewer: How long did this last?

Patrick Gould: Each one got worse it seemed and stayed around a little bit longer. And you're thinking more fish die and then, there was one, "Everything died, is this natural? How can this be?" In 2000, back then we started becoming more of people talking about it more. And you'd see politicians on TV, and it kind of, kept just kept going, getting worse and worse. You still had to go out and fish, work, make money. Unfortunately, that's the way people are, human nature

and it starts to affect everybody. Now they try and do something about it. I don't think it's too late. I think as long as there's people like you guys. That's why I'm here, to start trying and we'll get it done.

Interviewer: If we go back to the '95, '96 red tide what was the duration of that, how long did that last?

Patrick Gould: I don't think that long.

Interviewer: You know, months or weeks?

Patrick Gould: How long it lasted?

Interviewer: How long it lasted.

Patrick Gould: I can't remember whether it lasted more than like a week or two. Red tide? No, not where it affected my business. I was trying to think, no, as far as my recollection they were never something that was that long. I could be wrong. What have you heard? What does everybody else say? I don't know. [laughter]

Interviewer: It's different in different areas.

Patrick Gould: Down here what have you heard, back then? More than a week or two?

Interviewer: Down here we're hearing a lot of what you're saying, you can fish through it and it's not an issue, and it doesn't last for very long.

Patrick Gould: But people on the beach or from boats. [00:26:00] I remember a couple of years when people are like, "I'm not coming back here ever again. This is crazy," this is hotel guests I'm fishing with. Last year is when I'm like, "They'll start doing something once the Ritz Carlton has problems filling their rooms." Once they have trouble selling their houses and their real estate values. I know a lot of people who couldn't sell their house during that, a whole lot of stuff. I feel bad for them, just like I feel bad for anybody, but I think it took stuff like this to get more of the ball rolling, to help start talking about it and thinking about.

Interviewer: In the past when you saw these really bad red tides where it killed everything, you said that happens...

Patrick Gould: Only two or three times, I remember the bad ones.

Interviewer: Two or three other times. Do you think there is a difference between those and the other red tides, and the way that the bloom looks or the that it's in the water?

Patrick Gould: Like I was saying they're all different. In my memory the water is all colored, sometimes and smells and it's clear. That's weird, where it's actually you really can't see it and the fish that die. Trying to think of how else I would... and then, I wouldn't go offshore, but I would hear of ports, other fish dead 20 miles offshore, just dead fish. There's a captain named Phil Peka [phonetic] [indiscernible] [00:27:41], you ever heard of him?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

Patrick Gould: Have you talked to him?

Interviewer: I haven't talked to him.

Patrick Gould: I haven't talked to him in a long time. I just remember him fished at a marina; Wiggins Pass Marina, he would get so angry and so made, that he would say just the most outrageous things.

Interviewer: That sounds fun. [laughter]

Patrick Gould: Peka.

Interviewer: I think I have his name somewhere.

Patrick Gould: He probably won't talk to you, [laughter] he might. He's a very colorful, very knowledgeable guy, if you get a chance to talk to him. [00:28:16] Up in that area, he might have a good memory, but it seems like he would want to, call him Phil Peka.

Interviewer: Are ever able to tell where red tide is in the water column, if it's just on the surface or if it's on the bottom or anything like that?

Patrick Gould: No, not me, no, just by the bait fish story. That's the only way I could ever tell. Other than that, I'm in three feet of water. I'm fishing in shallow water, so there's not much in water column or the difference in the water column. It's just shallow.

Interviewer: Let's draw the 2018 red tide on here.

Patrick Gould: The 2018?

Interviewer: Yeah, the last year you only had red tide, wherever you saw it.

Patrick Gould: Again, I'm trying to think. Just trying to think of what I could draw besides your circles on news.

Interviewer: Is that the same area that you fish in?

Patrick Gould: I fished out many, many trips out of [indiscernible] [00:29:23] and I avoided a lot of it down here, and we were all talking, a fisher-guy in here, and everybody's bait is dying, there's [indiscernible] [00:29:34] that we throw out for our bait, all the bait was dying. So, I would go to [indiscernible] [00:29:40] and catch along the beach.

Interviewer: So you trail your boat here?

Patrick Gould: Mm-hmm. And they got nailed too by it as well. It doesn't seem to get in here as near as often but it does.

Interviewer: let's circle the safe area, areas that you were able to fish.

Patrick Gould: The safest was down here, but it was days it got in there too. I would go here to [indiscernible] [00:30:20], there's a ramp right there. I fished there and then, I had the Clausa Island Marina. I think that's Goodland right there. You go to Clausa Island Marina, there's also another part right there as well. I did a lot more trips right there. I didn't fish in May and June

because I shattered my ankle, and I couldn't fish much, so that's two months. Soon as I started coming back there was red tide everywhere, so that's why I started going down there this past year. I did a lot of trips. I mean it was okay but it was still not as good as it normally is.

Interviewer: Which months were you fishing here, down in this area?

Patrick Gould: Probably, most August, September, October, and then once November started. I'm trying to remember what I did on my trip. Thanksgiving was still difficult, you learn how to catch fish in the red tide, like you were saying snapper. And it's cold anyway so you're going to catch sheep head and snapper, from what I do with shrimp. And so, you're not catching bait anyway. So, when it was cold and front started coming through the whole bait fish problem was different, because shrimp will usually way better in the red tide, sometimes I think they were fine, in the water you would pump, and they didn't seem to be affected during this red tide. It seems like other ones, if they were, but this one here they weren't affected that much. Did you hear that about shrimp?

Interviewer: We've heard that shrimp are affected by red tide.

Patrick Gould: But I think before in years past, sometimes they had been, but this one here shows the shrimp were fine, and I could use it and fish with it, it's hard to get fish, not as many, but I was catching sheep head and snapper, no trout, [00:32:20] very few up here. I caught trout south. And when I had trout trips, I would just go out Clausa Marina or the park.

Interviewer: With the red tide is this the first time you've fished in this area.

Patrick Gould: What did I say, '94?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Patrick Gould: Those first red tides, I had to learn that area. I had to go down there as well. I didn't go to [indiscernible] [00:32:49], I went out of here, this was the first time I started going out of a [indiscernible] [00:32:53] in 1994, not '95 or whenever that was.

Interviewer: Why?

Patrick Gould: I can't remember exactly why, oh, because I think, I'm sorry because I was able to get bait fish that wouldn't die. And I remember a friend told me, "Yeah, it won't die." And I went down, a guide and he worked out fine. Actually, we were getting a couple of spots offshore, but then it was also sporadic, a couple of times I didn't go. They caught bait and it all died. You would get that "Hey did you get bait? They all die," all the time.

Interviewer: You've gone fishing in this area, how long have you not been fishing up here?

Patrick Gould: I've never not, that's a double negative. I always fish here.

Interviewer: You always fish here.

Patrick Gould: I live there, so I would rather there because I'm lazy and it's just...

Interviewer: You only fish down here because of red tide?

Patrick Gould: I fish down there because of it, but I also go there for other reasons as well, for tarpin, for trout fishing, for shark trips, different trips I do down there. I have to go there from the red tide, but I also go there.

Interviewer: I know that area, and your clients who will meet you down here.

Patrick Gould: It's a long way, they don't like it, most of them love going out of there because it's right there.

Interviewer: So, a lot of your people are local.

Patrick Gould: It's just because over the year they've said, "We catch more fish here than we do driving," and so they like it up here.

Interviewer: When there's a red tide and you have to change your fishing by going down in this area, what are the impacts for you [00:34:51], like does add cost to your business? So, what do you do, how are you able to adapt? Do you just charge people more?

Patrick Gould: No, we just eat it.

Interviewer: What about in the past, 2018 where you as you said, the fishing was bad to the point where even down here it wasn't always good? How did that impact to your business and your fishing?

Patrick Gould: You just got to fall back on what you're good at, and what works the best and you don't have any options. Sometimes you have to do whatever you can do the best, if that makes any sense at all

Interviewer: What are your fall backs, like what do you do?

Patrick Gould: let's see, you mean what kind of fishing?

Interviewer: Yeah, and any other ways that help you get through all the tough...

Patrick Gould: I'm very entertaining. I tell lots of funny stories, all the guys say that, "Yes, you're entertaining." Your job is to facilitate a great day on the water, however you get it done. [laughter] That's just all. Sometimes you have to be mean to your clients, and they like it, seriously. And some guys it's harder for them to probably do that, you have to have fun no matter what you're doing, you just go out. And if you're like, "This is terrible," you probably won't stay in business long, and it is, so you just have to make it whatever you're doing fun. And as long as you do that well I'm giving them their money's worth. Are they catching as many fish as they normally do? [00:36:32], no, and so the types of fish and you fall back on. You say what specific types; it changes every day. I mean the tide is different every day, the temperature is different every day, everything is different. There was not one answer for that. I would say that whatever you can get done, to tell you what those are. You want me to list them? whatever I can think of, I know.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Patrick Gould: Yeah?

Interviewer: Yeah, if you can think of them?

Patrick Gould: Going up inside the docks, underneath people's docks, around some tiny structure, we know there's fish there. And it'd be probably not where you want to fish, you probably want to fish in the main grows where people see you on TV. You just follow the birds, and stuff and you're behind a house, and then, you've got to make it seem it's okay, "We're behind someone's house, this is structure, this is where the fish hang out." You make a joke, "You want to go fish in the mangrove and not catch anything or do you want to fish here? 'Oh, this is okay,'" or something. But it's hard, everybody does stuff like that, and it makes it challenging.

Interviewer: What are some of the other, because that was really...

Patrick Gould: What?

Interviewer: That was really interesting, some of the things are really interesting I'm hearing, just details like that.

Patrick Gould: And how can that stuff, if you don't mind me asking, help you, in whatever you're doing?

Interviewer: Because when we're looking at adaptations that people make people are fishing closer in shore, people are fishing farther in the back bay because that's where they find fish, or we've heard of people finding offshore species that closer inside inshore, where areas where they're not usually, not. And it just kind of paints this bigger picture of what's going on. [00:38:18]

Patrick Gould: I'm fishing way back. I'm getting stuck in the mud. I'm going places I really shouldn't be going. Because whenever all of this is going on, for some reason there's little pockets in the back, but then there's a hundred other people who have the same idea. So, I go to the back of these places I haven't seen anybody ever and there's like 10 boats.

Interviewer: And what are you catching back there?

Patrick Gould: I'm looking for easy snook and reds, that's what I'm looking for. And when there's a red tide and all such ones the only place you can find them is way back. But that's proprietary information. You're going to tell anybody that? That's part of my business. Don't tell people I actually told you that.

Interviewer: So, part of this is you're comfortable with everything you said being shared, then there's a consent form that you can sign the event.

Patrick Gould: For who?

Interviewer: For us, we have a program called Voices of the Fisheries. And for some of these interviews, if we hear some really great stories and we think we should share them the public, then, we have an online anthropological database of fishing stories.

Patrick Gould: I don't want to disappoint you, but I'm not doing that, just let you know that, [laughter] okay, go ahead.

Aviane: That's fine. Also. for a little more context, what we're working on is a collaboration between biologist and socioeconomics

Patrick Gould: Oh, you are. I know what you're saying.

Aviane: It's not just biologist focused on the project. That's why she's gone into some more of the question about how you adapt, social science.

Patrick Gould: So what is this for again, tell me?

Interviewer: So NOAA can learn more about red tides, so that we can make the hypotheses we need to move forward with the research that needs to be done.

Patrick Gould: How can you guys have anything to do with the water releases, the Lake Okeechobee.

Interviewer: That's not really [overlapping conversation] [00:40:15]

Patrick Gould: I can't really believe that Santos wanted the whole water board to resign, that was impressive for a republican.

Interviewer: I think everyone was hoping that's going to be good, and there's actually movement going forward [overlapping conversation] [00:40:28]

Patrick Gould: They just have to start doing something. I was kind of thinking that NOAA, you were... and you haven't said anything about the water currents, and the flow. And I've heard these theories about that, the reason why there's red tide now is because of different currents in the gulf. You've heard all of that too?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Patrick Gould: Are these all theories they really don't know.

Interviewer: That was based on a...

Aviane: [indiscernible] [00:40:52]

Interviewer: That was based on a paper, but a lot of that research was done before the red tide had actually started. I mean after [overlapping conversation] [00:41:00]

Aviane: Yeah, I thought it was after.

Interviewer: It was done after the red tides.

Patrick Gould: What about the hurricane run off.

Interviewer: I mean like you said there's a lot of factors.

Patrick Gould: That's theories, that's part of it, what about the [indiscernible] [00:41:12], those little springs are out there, and that stuff pumping out, and the bloom starting off right there. You guys know about that too?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Aviane: People have brought that up.

Patrick Gould: No I've never seen actually... but I know there's a couple of holes out there. I know people that have said, "I think a bloom started out there where the water's pumping out, [indiscernible] [00:41:34] Okay go ahead.

Interviewer: As far as efforts to monitor or forecast, what do you think could be done better? What do you think would help?

Patrick Gould: I think what they've started to do recently on the news, who's doing the water samples, where they're reporting it, and the news says, "Right here."

Interviewer: Has that been helpful for you when you, are you able to sue that to help in any way?

Patrick Gould: I try, I look at it I think sometimes it's accurate and I think it is helpful. Why do they put that on there? Who is that for, the tourists, the hotels, for everybody? And who's doing that study? You know what I'm talking about?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Patrick Gould: Who does it?

Interviewer: The water testing is...

Aviane: FWC I think.

Interviewer: if you go online there's FWC, there's the maps of the tide.

Patrick Gould: So, they're going in the area, they're testing the water.

Interviewer: A lot of that is testing that's done from the shore. And so, like getting any information about offshore [indiscernible] [00:42:44] and that's part of why we're doing this research.

Patrick Gould: I was trying to think, it seems like those circles were offshore though, weren't they? No?

Interviewer: There's some different ones but I mean it's not like they can do testing every day, all the times.

Patrick Gould: So, during this past month, it was funny, good and bad. The media was so all over it, because I mean every single person I've ever fished with told me, "I feel so bad about it." I know I lost business because of that. I know a lot of people have lost a whole bunch. But I'm lucky I've done it for so long, that even when I lose stuff something else comes along.

Aviane: Like what other people, like when you lose a client?

Patrick Gould: When someone doesn't come, because of the red tide. I still get referrals. I pass them to other people. So, this time I kept them

Interviewer: If this happens again, if there's another bad red tide here this year...

Patrick Gould: It would be horrible, not only to me, those people that are like, "Nah," I think it would be once the country finds out it's going to be bad. [00:44:06] I would hate for that to happen again like that, even if there's like medium ones. I don't know what's going to happen. What do you guys think?

Interviewer: I'm worried about all of [indiscernible] [00:44:23] fisheries. If this were to happen again, it would be really devastating.

Patrick Gould: I mean the media all over the country. I mean it's just like everybody, everybody. But then again if they knew something about the red tide them maybe something like that has to happen. Because unfortunately like we were saying before, we're told it affects somebody's wallet, they don't anything. Like I said when Ritz Carlton, they're bookings are 30% down as an example or whatever you call that, so that's a scary question.

Interviewer: It is a scary question.

Patrick Gould: I mean you're talking a lot... I mean number one business in the State of Florida is tourism. I had that argument with the senator and the agriculture lobbyist.

Aviane: was that by chance [indiscernible] [00:45:18]

Patrick Gould: I did a group trip [indiscernible] [00:45:24], they hire different guides, and it was by chance they were on my boat. And it was pretty interesting. I can't remember the senator's name, but she was up for reelection. And they had like a little think tank. And so the lobbyist who are not happy with at all. Which was weird, he texted me all the time for like the next two or three months. Because I was say things that are totally against... I was trying to be helpful and was obviously trying to. I was going to talk t the senator about his. He was talking about the agricultural business; how important it was to stay in Florida. Tourism is one business, or the director of the chambers of commers that that is true.

Interviewer: Are the any other environmental changes or allergy blooms or anything else you've noticed?

Patrick Gould: It's just in the past five years, there's just aquatic weed everywhere. You fish, it gets all over your stuff, it's like today, and its in the past couple of years, I mean everywhere, the bay the rocks are now covered with this nasty green moss. Somebody told me that this is one of the least healthiest waters in Florida, like the worst five. Have you heard that?

Interviewer: No, I haven't heard that. when you say, 'this area'.

Patrick Gould: I mean Naples Bay, just the Bay is one of the least healthiest, but anyway, I live around the corner in the water, oh, yeah. A lot of changes, definitely the aquatic weed which just comes and it's all over everything and everywhere. That's got to be unhealthy water. It's full of whatever it is, phosphorus, nutrients from all the growth. I mean you put another million people

here in the past 10 years or whatever that is, I mean it comes to the point where its not going to sustain it unless you keep chipping away at controlling it and they don't, and they need to. Who is that person? Who can do that, you don't know? And that's what the guys today, they're going, "I don't want to go there, what can we do about it? 'We're just going to ride it out, like really? We've got to do something.'"

Interviewer: I want to make sure we've covered everything. Aviane [phonetic] [00:47:58], do you have any questions?

Aviane: I think you covered the ones that we had.

Patrick Gould: Are you typing that stuff too?

Interviewer: Not word for word, just key words and things.

Patrick Gould: Oh, really and you're recording it?

Interviewer: Yes, I come back to the notes, because sometimes something I write might not make sense to me later.

Patrick Gould: I see what you're saying. Probably a lot of what I say doesn't make sense but it's alright, it's good.

Interviewer: We have colleagues who...

Patrick Gould: I ramble especially when I'm tired. I can't keep my eyes open.

Aviane: It's been really good, so we've gotten good stories.

Patrick Gould: Fishing guides. If you like it go to a book, any fishing guide, as long... because if I had wrote a book it would be worth reading. So, many, many, very funny things. We're dealing with people. People always ask, "They want your best story. 'I'm like what category;'"

Aviane: Dealing with people in isolated locations.

Patrick Gould: Just thinking you'll be total strangers. Like right now one of us just walk away, are you kidding? You can't do that on a boat.

Interviewer: Is fishing back here has it recovered?

Patrick Gould: From what, from the tide?

Interviewer: From this past year.

Patrick Gould: Some fish yes, maybe, some fish, no.

Interviewer: Which ones?

Patrick Gould: Which ones do I think recovered? I think the trout least affected here if they were everywhere else. So recovered I think the trout have done as good here, and sometimes I think they all move down here, because it was trout fishing when I did my [indiscernible] [00:49:28] were pretty good, snook, did you say it has recovered

Interviewer: To what it was before.

Patrick Gould: Before the red tide?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Patrick Gould: if the red tide even damaged this area that much though, you see what I'm saying? I don't know if there was much of a drop off for it to recover from anything, it was just, maybe a little [indiscernible] [00:49:53] like which ones? actually the snook probably were hurt the worst overall. The trout, I think the ones from here on., I think something bad happened. I don't know what it is. Do they even know, hearing me talk about it, about trout?

Interviewer: I don't think anyone else has talked about a decline in trout.

Patrick Gould: Really? It's not good, something bad is happened I think.

Interviewer: Do you think it's related to the red tide?

Patrick Gould: 100%, I do I believe it. I don't think they know how bad things are. The law is you can't keep snooker reds, north of Gordon's Pass to Tampa. Trout they changed the limits to all over which I think they limits to all over [00:50:54], which I think, why did they change the limits? Why couldn't they say, "You can't keep it for a year," I don't understand that at all. Who made that decision? To me that insanity. Like, "Wait, you don't even know how bad they're hurt, so you're just going to like... who came up with that number?" You guys are biologist.

Interviewer: I'm a biologist.

Patrick Gould: What biologist came up with that. I want to talk to them. Where did you hear that at and what did you base this decision on?

Aviane: There is a distinction between regular tour. The biologist collected the data make recommendations and then, the people who make the regulations decide how to implement those recommendations. So there can be a disconnect there and they do take into account the socioeconomic impacts of regulations. I mean there was somebody arguing for...

Patrick Gould: Like they had a cousin or something related

Aviane: Maybe, no

Patrick Gould: No it's true. Florida was so corrupt. You're still recording this?

Aviane: No, no her, just her on notes.

Patrick Gould: Yeah you can go ahead and put that in there. I just wish they would have done more [00:52:10], because I think they could of done to see what happens because I don't think they know.

Aviane: I think we covered a lot.

Patrick Gould: Did you?

Aviane: Yeah.

Patrick Gould: It didn't seem like much. It didn't seem I didn't cover anything.

Aviane: when did you start fishing here again, this year?

Patrick Gould: I always fished there when they stopped having to go down here, Christmas, January. I still did a few times when they wanted trout, if they said, "We want trout," then I would never go up there. I always go down here, so does that make sense?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Patrick Gould: Soon as I got on to answer the question...

Interviewer: It sounds like these are kind of like these are kind of your two fishing areas, and you fished out here more.

Patrick Gould: Today I fished up there. I fish there one day a week, yeah, four days a month.

Interviewer: Why up there is there a reason?

Patrick Gould: I do hotel trips for AWE [indiscernible] [00:53:33], the center, and lobbyist. So they have a company when they get groups the hire guides from all over, and we go up there.

Interviewer: So, when the red tide is [indiscernible] [00:53:46] enough and you can't fish in the area do you just tell your clients, "Listen, we're going to come down here."

Patrick Gould: Yeah, I give them the option.

Interviewer: you give them the option, like, "We can fish here but..."

Patrick Gould: Some people it's weird and it's hard to [indiscernible] [00:54:01] all these years, some people they love the fishing, so if you tell them the fish is... they're like... if they're coughing and choking, that's a different story, because you get red tide is kind of a condition. When you go out fishing it's cold, the water temperature is cold, it's all muddy, it's windy, there's red tide we can avoid, sometimes that's part of it too. And that's why I try to make it being honest. Instead of, "Red tide is out there, we might as well not go fishing," which some people do, to me that's ridiculous to that, I might as well quit fishing. And those people might as well never go fishing. That's kind of a weird way to look at it. So, you're cool with you're being here?

Interviewer: Keith actually helped me talk to some people here, in this area.

Patrick Gould: How nice, that's pretty nice. Imagine you guys here working, this is so nice.

Interviewer: We've been really lucky to have this space, for sure.

Patrick Gould: You guys go to the University of Miami?

Interviewer: I went there and I'm affiliated with the University of Miami, so I'm a contractor for NOAA.

Aviane: I got my Masters at Virginia Tech and then, I started working at NOAA. I do sock assessments for mostly [indiscernible] [00:55:33] fish. But we do have initiatives to be cross

disciplinarians like this, like economists and anthropologists, working with biologists and also initiatives to think about the ecosystem, not just our models which are the one species being fished. It's not just the species being fished now we're incorporating more.

Patrick Gould: And the red tide thing/

Aviane: Red tide is incorporated to some of our models already, like for red grouper, it's part of the stock assessment, but yeah, we think that it's something on the Florida west coast that we need to learn more about.

Patrick Gould: The FWC calls me once every week and they don't really tell me why they're calling me and what they're doing with that data, "How many troupes did you have this week Pat? How many hours did you fish? What did you fish for? What did you catch? Where did you go out of?" Tuesday, and they've been doing this for years. What are they doing with that data?

Interviewer: That might be the recreational...

Patrick Gould: I'm a fishing captain. They call me because I'm a captain.

Interviewer: it's part of the calls they do to estimate total recreational effort. I think, I'm not 100% sure. But I do know it's television survey's that they use to expand what they learn. Have you been sampled at the docks? Those are the two components. Does Florida do their own calls or are they part of the national system?

Patrick Gould: She also said, "Thank you so much," for taking my calls and stuff, "hey no problem." I can't remember what she said, but I said, "What do people get annoyed with you," she goes like, "They avoid me." I go, "Well, what if I just told you I don't want to do this," she goes like, "they can fine you," or something. I go, "What? Are you serious?"

Interviewer: That's crazy.

Patrick Gould: That's what I said. I'm officiating captain. I have a license. I don't know what it is, but I'm like whoa.

Interviewer: In the south Atlantic they're coming up with electronic log books and things like that. electronic charter log books.

Patrick Gould: That they have to do?

Interviewer: At some point. I think they're voluntary in their pilot stage.

Patrick Gould: I have heard of that. [00:58:02] And they're putting a GPS on their boats and stuff.

Interviewer: They're thinking about that. But that's South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, that's not here. if this happened again for another year and you were losing clients and you were fishing in this area and you said that, "Okay sometimes but not all the time," is there

anything you can do, is there anything like any other type of fishery you would get involved in or something else? What are your options?

Patrick Gould: it's not like if you're a crabber and you can change, is that what you're saying? You go to the other type of fishery.

Interviewer: you can't because there's not that flexibility.

Patrick Gould: I catch everything. I fish for everything. But that's how it changes because the fish kills. You have to go after something.... I think we talked about that before.

Interviewer: You just do what you know.

Patrick Gould: You've got to do what you have to do, and you change what you're catching. You could be a big tarpin guide and all of a sudden there's no tarpin around, what are you going to do? Whatever it takes, I'm 55 I probably have five years tops doing this, so hopefully this problem is taken care of and they start to pulling the other way instead of base going. But you never know.

Aviane: What do you plan on doing five years from now?

Patrick Gould: I don't know, some type of [indiscernible] [00:59:35] job maybe, I don't know. I could sell stuff, so maybe like in real estate or they wouldn't hire me back to sell pharmaceuticals anymore because too old. I don't know it's a good question.

Interviewer: That's more than five years on the water.

Patrick Gould: This was the best job when I was like 30 or 40, not so cool now when you're 55, but you chose your path, whatever it is. you've got to make it.

Interviewer: I think that's cool.

Aviane: I think you have fun with it too.

Patrick Gould: I do. I'm healthy and happy. So, no I'm not complaining. I wouldn't recommend it to somebody else to do. My son is a tennis pro and he wants to do this part-time. I'm just like, "Man don't do that, stay with your tennis job." It's hard, I was up this morning at 4:30 throwing my net out in the dark. Sometimes it's really pretty to look around, and then, you think, "I'm 55, what am I doing here in this, this is crazy." You guys have to go all the way back to Miami?

Interviewer: We have another interview we're going to do at 5:00.

Aviane: What do you see about the demographics of the charter fisherman, do you see like some people having to leave?

Patrick Gould: yeah, I was trying to think of the people that I hear more about, "So and so quit, none of the immediate people I know stopped but I know a lot of them struggled last year, since we're talking about it, another year? I don't know. I would stop if I could find something to make the same or more amount of money at this point. It's just hard at my age. My wife's a

teacher, so she gets benefits, but she stops doing that I'll probably have to do something that has benefits for health insurances, but I don't know. You guys like what you do?

Interviewer: Yeah. [01:01:37]